

Canine Academy Classes

The Academy Classes have been designed with busy lifestyles and your ultimate success in mind. The classes are divided into four levels of increasingly challenging exercises. Students must pass a skills test at each level before moving on. You and your dog progress to the next level when *you're ready*, not when time's up!

How does the Academy work?

Each level is taught at a different day and time. Level 1 is divided into six segments taught in six consecutive weeks. You must be able to attend all six consecutive Level 1 classes. If you miss a Level 1 class, you will be responsible for scheduling and paying for a make up lesson.

Once you have completed Level 1, you will attend classes held in the Level 2 time slot (see the enclosed Class Outline for day and time schedule). At this point the program becomes self-paced, working much like a gym membership. You may come as little or as often as you need to master the skills. When you complete Level 2, you will move to the classes in the Level 3, and 4 time slots in the same manner. The initial term is six months long.

Is this a competitive obedience class?

No. This class is designed primarily for companion dogs. We will learn walking on a loose leash and some more advanced behaviors, but will not train for competition.

What can I expect from the classes?

More thorough training. The six month time frame allows us to go beyond the basics and train more difficult behaviors including: recalls from a distance and distractions, stays with you at a distance, and off-leash control. Classes will be a combination of learning new exercises and practicing skills. You can also expect a certain amount of silliness and fun! We'll play games at each level that enhance and reinforce the skills, and learn at least two tricks at each level.

What training methods do you use?

All our teaching is based on a knowledge and understanding of canine behavior, learning theory, and motivational training methods using primarily positive reinforcement. We do believe in interrupting and redirecting inappropriate behavior (usually done with a vocal signal, ie: "AH-AH!") when necessary. We do not use choke collars, prong collars, or physical punishment.

How many students will be in each class?

Our business has been built solely on our reputation. All our clients come from referrals and word of mouth. We're very proud of that and work hard to maintain that reputation and quality of service. Only six dogs are allowed to start each Level 1 class. By limiting the number of dogs starting the program each month, we can control the size of the upper level classes. In the upper level classes, the program's structure does support a "more the merrier" environment. At the beginning of class "old timers" practice exercises while students new to a level are brought up to speed.

over please....

Canine Academy Classes

(cont.)

What if I finish before the six months is up, or if I don't finish in six months?

If you finish before your anniversary date, you're welcome to continue coming to any class for practice or fun. If you don't finish by your anniversary date and wish to complete the course, you may continue the program for a monthly fee.

Do I need to reserve my spot for class?

You must reserve a spot in the Level 1 class. Once you move into Level 2, you can come or not come as your schedule permits.

Is it difficult for the dogs to adjust to different dogs & people each time?

At first. However, the levels-style of training helps better prepare dogs and their owners for real life situations and helps the dog learn how to adjust to new situations. After all, there's always someone new at the park, pet store, veterinarians...

Where are you located?

Our address is 8618 McMeans Trail, southwest, in the Oak Hill area, near the Circle C golf course.

What does it cost?

\$480.00 for the six month program. If you do not finish the course by your anniversary date, you may continue in the program at a cost of \$80.00 per month.

How do I register?

Complete and return the registration form with your payment. Your spot is reserved when we receive your paperwork and deposit. You may pay the entire fee up front, or pay half when you register, and the other half when you move to Level 2. You will receive a confirmation letter with information you'll need for the first class. Please note that this program is not for dogs with serious aggression problems. If you have concerns about whether this class is right for your dog, or any other questions about the program, please feel free to contact us!

What other services do you offer?

We also offer private lessons; Puppy Preschool; and consultations for aggression, phobias (including Separation Anxiety), and other behavior problems.

Thanks again for your interest!

THE HUMANER TRAINER'S CANINE ACADEMY CLASSES Outline & Schedule

LEVEL 1 – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

- Week 1 – Orientation; Target, Attention; Creating a Mark Word
- Week 2 – Beginning Leash walking; Positions (sit, stand & down); Recalls
- Week 3 – Extending Leash walking; Review positions; Recall practice; Prep for Stay
- Week 4 – Stay; Extensive Leash walking exercise
- Week 5 – Leash walking, Stay, and Recall Practice; Finish Left; Wait at the Door
- Week 6 – Practice all skills; Watch, Leave it; Tricks: Spin & Shake

LEVEL 2 – JUNIOR HIGH • Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

- Leash walking – with attention, strategies for “sled dogs”
- Recalls – short distances/mild distractions, on & off leash
- Positions – verbal and hand signals separate
- Stay – sit and down
- Tricks: High Five & Bang (Play Dead)

LEVEL 3 – HIGH SCHOOL • Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

- Leash walking – adding patterns and finish
- Recalls – increasing distance and distractions
- Positions – at your side
- Stay – increasing distance & duration, mild – moderate distractions
- Tricks: Roll Over & Crawl

LEVEL 4 – COLLEGE • Tuesdays 8:00 p.m.

- Leash walking – changing speed, off-leash work, increase level of distractions
- Recalls – away from distractions
- Positions – at a distance
- Stay – more distractions and distance
- Practice exercises required in American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Test®*
- Tricks: Retrieve, Weave & Bow, Beginning Agility Obstacles

CANINE ACADEMY WEEKDAY CLASSES: Level 1 meets Thursdays at 10am. Since attendance at the weekday classes is lower than the evening classes, all upper levels (2-4) meet together Thursdays at 9am in the “little red schoolhouse” fashion. Students perform exercises in a group setting, but at their individual skill levels.

* The AKC's Canine Good Citizen Test involves: Accepting a Friendly Stranger, Sitting Politely for Petting, Appearance & Grooming, Walking on a Loose Leash, Walking Through a Crowd, Sit & Down on Command/Staying in Place, Coming When Called, Reaction to Another Dog, Reactions to Distractions, Supervised Separation.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HUMANER TRAINER'S:

From Mopac:

South on Mopac. Stay on Mopac past William Cannon, Slaughter Lane, and the Wildflower Center. Don't be frightened when it's no longer a freeway, it's still Mopac.

You'll go past the Wildflower Center, the Veloway, and Circle C golf course.

After a couple of dangerous high-speed curves, Mopac becomes Texas 45. 45 dead ends at a flashing red light at RR 1826 (aka: Camp Ben McCollough Road, aka: the road to the Salt Lick). Take the right turn yield at RR 1826. You will see a Diamond Shamrock station, that's Bubba's Country Store. Just to the left of Bubba's (by a row of mailboxes) is a gravel road with a subtle green sign that says McMeans Trail. Turn left onto that gravel road.

McMeans Trail goes straight for about 1/3 of a mile, then curves to the right. Just past the curve you'll see a gate on your right with a dog windsock. Turn in that gate. Follow the drive around to the pens on your left. Park off the drive to the left of the pens or in the open area by the metal shed on your right.

Call 301-6886 if you're lost.

From Hwy. 290:

Go west on Hwy. 290 past the "Y" in Oak Hill toward Dripping Springs. Go past ACC's Pinnacle Campus (it will be the 2nd light past the "Y").

Turn left at the next light onto RR 1826 (aka: Camp Ben McCollough Road, aka: the road to the Salt Lick). It will be the 3rd traffic light past the "Y," across from the Conoco. You'll be going south on RR 1826. If you're coming from the Dripping Springs direction, turn right onto RR 1826, before you get to the ACC Pinnacle Campus.

Go approximately 3.5 miles down RR 1826 until you see a Diamond Shamrock station on your right, that's Bubba's Country Store. Just past Bubba's (right next to it by a row of mailboxes) is a gravel road with a subtle green sign that says McMeans Trail. Turn right onto that gravel road.

McMeans Trail goes straight for about 1/3 of a mile, then curves to the right. Just past the curve you'll see a gate on your right with a dog windsock. Turn in that gate. Follow the drive around to the pens on your left. Park off the drive to the left of the pens or in the open area by the metal shed on your right.

Call 301-6886 if you're lost.

CANINE ACADEMY CLASS
REGISTRATION FORM

Your Name(s) _____ Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____ Your Occupation(s) _____

Family Data: M S D Children (ages) _____ Other _____

Referred by _____ Veterinarian _____

Dog's Name _____ Breed _____ M/F Age _____

Dog Obtained From: _____ Age Obtained: _____ First dog? Y/N

Prior dogs (breeds/types): _____ First time owning this breed? Y/N

Why choose this breed? _____

Why choose this dog? _____

Date of Last Vet Visit: _____ Is dog spayed or neutered? Y/N What age? _____

Medical Conditions (including allergies): _____

Medications (ie: heartworm &/or flea preventive): _____

Housetraining Method: _____ Prior Training: Y/N

If Yes, when & what type: _____

What will dog do on command: _____

Describe your dog's personality: _____

Indoor/Outdoor %: _____ How long is dog alone during day? _____

Where is dog kept when: left alone _____ guests visit _____

Sleeps Where: _____ How often groomed: _____

Brand of Food: _____ How much/often: _____ Who feeds? _____

Where: _____ Other treats: _____ When given: _____

Other Pets (name/species or breed/age): _____

How do you exercise or play with your dog: _____

How often: _____ Toys/Games dog likes: _____

How does dog react to with other animals? _____

How does dog react to unfamiliar people? _____

How does dog behave at veterinarians? _____

Has your dog ever bitten or displayed any signs of aggression to a person or other animal ? Y /N If yes, please explain: _____

Please check all problem(s) are you experiencing with your dog & rank in order of severity/importance:

House Training Jumping Recall/Attention Chewing Finicky Eater
 Digging Barking Item Stealing Shy Pulling on Lead
 Other : _____

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER OF LIABILITY
and HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

1. ASSUMPTION OF RISK. I am aware of the inherent risks of injury to myself or my dog involved in dog training, including without limitation, risks due to dog bite, the use of equipment, condition of premises, or infectious disease. I am aware of the risk of injury that may result from, among other causes, the active or passive negligence of THE HUMANER TRAINER, Inc.; its shareholders, directors, officers and employees; MARGARET A. JOHNSON; ROBERT A. DOLLARS - owner of the property (the "PREMISES") located at 8618 McMeans Trail, Austin, Texas 78737; and all current and future assistants – including, but not limited to: LISA WOLVERTON, LORI FENNELL, ALYSSA CARPENTER, LARRY BABB, KIM KULPA, MARK BUTTERWORTH, and their successors and assigns – (collectively the "RELEASED PARTIES"), including without limitation, the risk of negligent instruction or supervision. I am voluntarily engaged in dog training as a recreational activity with knowledge of the risks and I assume any and all known and unknown risks of injury, death, and property damage that may result from participation in dog training, practice, and events.

2. RELEASE OF LIABILITY. I release and agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless all of the RELEASED PARTIES named above from all liability to me and my representatives, guardians, successors, assigns, heirs, children, and next of kin for all liability, claims, damage, or demands for personal injury, death, or property damage, to me or my dog or dogs, arising from or related to this agreement or to participation in dog training, practice, and events, whether the injury, death, or property damage occurs on or off the PREMISES, including, without limitation, any injury, death or property damage caused by me or by my dog or dogs. **This release includes, without limitation, any personal injury, death, or property damage caused by the active or passive negligence of any of the RELEASED PARTIES. I bear sole responsibility for any loss.**

3. KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY EXECUTION. **I acknowledge that I have carefully read this agreement, understand its contents, and understand that this agreement includes an assumption of the risk of the RELEASED PARTIES' negligence and a release, waiver of liability, and hold harmless agreement.** I acknowledge that the RELEASED PARTIES are materially relying on this waiver in allowing me to use the PREMISES and to engage in dog training, practice, and events. I acknowledge that The Humaner Trainer, Inc. materially relies on this agreement in agreeing to render training services to me.

X _____
Signature Date

X _____
Print Name Dog's Name/Breed

If handler is a minor, Responsible Adult/Parent/Guardian:

X _____
Signature Date

The Humaner Trainer's Canine Academy Class Policies

DEPOSIT POLICY

A deposit is necessary to confirm your place in the Canine Academy Classes. Your place is confirmed once we receive your deposit and your completed Canine Academy Registration Form.

The deposit amount is at least 50% of the class fee and is due upon registration. The balance is due no later than the first Level 2 class.

STUDENT CANCELLATION POLICY

Prior to first Level 1 class: 50% refund of deposit.

Prior to second Level 1 class: 40% refund of deposit

Prior to third Level 1 class: 30% refund of deposit

Prior to fourth Level 1 class: 20% refund of deposit

Prior to fifth Level 1 class: 10% refund of deposit

No refund will be given if you cancel after the fifth Level 1 class.

Since space in Level 1 is limited, no full refunds are given. Refunds are calculated not just on time a dog spends in class, but to compensate for administrative costs, including but not limited to preparation time that goes into each class and individual client/dog, actual trainer time spent in (and sometimes out of) class, and production of course materials.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in Level 1 is mandatory. Each week we teach new skills that build from one week to the next. If you must miss a class, you are required to schedule and pay for a make up lesson with one of our trainers prior to the next class. You should plan on working with your dog 5-7 days between classes to be most successful.

Family members eight years and older are welcome to participate, but must be under control at all times and refrain from being a distraction to other class members. Children under 16 years must have a participating adult as the primary trainer. Absolutely no unsupervised children at any time. Please understand that these rules exist in an effort to keep all children and dogs safe.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

We understand six months is a long-term commitment and sometimes, circumstances in life change. Students who have a good attendance record may request a *one time per term* Leave of Absence (LOA). LOA's are considered on a case-by-case basis and are granted at the discretion of The Humaner Trainer, Inc.

If a LOA is granted, a Humaner Trainer staff member will inform the student and ask for an estimated date of return to class. The student's class membership is put on hold when we get the estimated return date. When the student returns, they will finish out the weeks remaining in their term. Students must return to class within 6 months of the start of their LOA, or forfeit the remaining classes.

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY

Occasionally we have to cancel class. Reasons include but are not limited to weather, field conditions, illness, and staffing concerns. If the Humaner Trainer cancels a class for any reason, students do not forfeit that week of class. Records of student anniversary dates are maintained and adjusted when necessary by The Humaner Trainer. Current anniversary dates are available at any time by contacting The Humaner Trainer.

Regularly scheduled classes missed at the student's discretion are forfeited by the student.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Because Canine Academy Classes are held outdoors, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature. Classes may be canceled due to rain, extreme heat or cold, field conditions, or other reasons. Class cancellation announcements will be posted on the office answering machine by 5:30 pm the night of class for evening classes, or by 8:00am the day of class for daytime classes. It is the student's responsibility to check for cancellation messages if there is any question about class status. It is better to call and check than to drive out when classes have been canceled.

Rain: If it has been raining, is raining, or may rain, please be sure to call the office and check on the status of class. Often it will be raining (or not) here when other areas are fine. If we have had several days of rain, the training field may be flooded.

At times the field is usable, but the regular parking area is not. If that is the case, you will find cones blocking the class gate. The gate will be ajar so that you can enter, but will not be completely open. Please park along the fence line off McMeans Trail alongside our property.

Temperature: Extreme heat and cold can be dangerous to dogs and unpleasant for humans. We have temperature policies in place to keep everyone as safe and comfortable as possible. There is a weather station approximately 1 mile away on Zyle Road that we use to get official temperatures for our location. You can check current conditions at:

<http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=78737>

Heat: if the temperature goes above 100°F or the heat index reaches 105°F or more during the day (or at class time for day classes), classes will be canceled. If temperatures get close to 100°F during the day, evening classes may start one half hour later than regularly scheduled. We will contact you directly if that is the case.

Cold: if the actual temperature and/or wind chill temperature will not be above 39°F, we will not have class.

HEALTH ISSUES:

Dogs must be current on vaccinations and flea free to come on the property. Your dog's veterinary records may be faxed to our office at 512/301-6991. If your dog has fleas when they come to class, you will have the option of giving your dog a Capstar tablet (fast acting flea killer), placing your dog in your vehicle while you observe class (weather and safety permitting), or returning home. We do everything we can to keep the property clean and protect your dog from pests and infectious diseases. We appreciate your assistance and understanding in this effort.